

STORAGE WARS

Conflict grows between U.S. and allies over vaccine supply

A healthcare worker administers a dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to a woman at the Brussels Expo center in Brussels, Thursday, March 4, 2021.

Associated Press
Page 2

SUPER Doit Center.
Bo Famia Pa Semper!
Weekly SPECIALS



Celery Sleeved



Chicken Wings



Ardenner (Boterhamworst)



Libby's Regular Vienna Sausage

*Offer is valid from 12 - 18 Mar 2021 and while supplies last. All prices are in US dollars (\$)

NOW OPEN Fit2fly
COVID-19 Testing Center
BY WALK-IN & APPOINTMENT

Antigen Test: \$50
PCR Test also available



MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630

info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: **The Cove Mall** (8AM-10PM) and **Medcare at the Mill Resort** (8:30AM-12:30PM).

Conflict grows between U.S. and allies over vaccine supply

By ZEKE MILLER, RAF CASERT,
and SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's administration is stockpiling tens of millions of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine whose authorization in the U.S. remains uncertain, frustrating U.S. allies who say those doses should be used now to save lives overseas.

The standoff is part of a growing global debate over who should have access to hundreds of millions of doses of vaccine that pharmaceutical companies are churning out in the U.S. Besides generating ill will, Biden's insistence on an excess supply for America is potentially creating new openings for geopolitical rivals Russia and China.

A two-dose vaccine from AstraZeneca has received emergency clearance from the European Union and World Health Organization but not from the U.S. Now America's partners are prodding Biden to release his supply, noting that the administration has lined up enough doses of three already-authorized vaccines to cover every American adult by the end of May and the entire U.S. population by the end of July.

AstraZeneca says that the U.S.-produced vaccines are "owned" by the U.S. government and that sending them overseas would require White House approval.

"We understand other governments may have reached out to the U.S. government about donation of AstraZeneca doses, and we've asked the U.S. government to give thoughtful consideration to these requests," Gonzalo Viña, a spokesman for AstraZeneca, said in a statement.

Even though the 27-nation European Union is eager to relaunch a more fruitful trans-Atlantic relationship after the bruising Trump presidency, the vaccine issue is proving to be a thorny topic, with some in Europe seeing it as a continuation of former President Donald



President Joe Biden passes a note to Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during a virtual meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, from the State Dining Room of the White House, Friday, March 12, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

Trump's "America First" focus.

EU member states' ambassadors discussed the challenge this week.

The German government said on Friday it was in contact with U.S. officials about vaccine supplies but stressed that the European Commission has the lead when it comes to procuring shots for member states.

Biden and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen have directed representatives to discuss supply chains in the vaccine production.

"Hopefully, we will be in a position on both sides of the Atlantic to ensure that sufficient quantities of vaccine doses are distributed out in line with the schedule so as to complete the vaccination campaigns,"

EU commission chief spokesman Eric Mamer said.

Well over 10 million doses of AstraZeneca's vaccine are stockpiled in the U.S. for use here.

"We want to be oversupplied and overprepared," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Friday, so Americans can still be swiftly vaccinated in the event of unforeseen issues

with the existing production timeline.

"We have not provided doses from the U.S. government to anyone," she said. Asked about the stockpiled vaccine, White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients said, "We have a small inventory of AstraZeneca so, if approved, we can get that inventory out to the American people as quickly as possible."

He said the U.S. was following the same procedure it used for the already-authorized vaccines.

Drug manufacturers that received federal assistance in developing or expanding vaccine manufacturing were required to sell their first doses to the U.S. In the case of AstraZeneca, whose vaccine was initially expected to be the first to receive federal emergency authorization, the government ordered 300 million doses — enough for 150 million Americans — before issues with the vaccine's clinical trial held up clearance.

The company said this month it believes it will have roughly 30 million doses available to the U.S. government by the end of March, and an additional

20 million by the end of April.

As foreign regulators have moved ahead with the shot, the U.S. has not dropped its contractual claim on the initial doses produced in America.

That policy has also come under criticism from U.S. neighbors Canada and Mexico, which have been forced to seek vaccine manufactured on a different continent, rather than across the border. Meanwhile, the Biden administration has purchased enough doses of Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson to inoculate 150 million more people than the U.S. population by the end of the year.

The U.S. has also ordered 110 million doses of vaccine from Novavax, which is expected to file for emergency authorization as soon as next month.

AstraZeneca's 30,000-person U.S. trial didn't complete enrollment until January.

The company hasn't given any hints of when initial results might be ready beyond an executive telling Congress last month he expected it would be "soon." The European Union, amid

its own stumbling vaccine rollout, appears increasingly resigned to the Biden administration retaining control of the U.S. doses.

The EU is at odds with AstraZeneca, too, because the company is delivering far fewer doses to the bloc than it had promised.

Of the initial order for 80 million in the first quarter this year, the company will be struggling to deliver half.

Despite shortages at home and often being accused of vaccine protectionism itself, the 27-nation bloc has allowed the export of well over 34 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in past weeks, including 953,723 to the United States.

Meanwhile, Russia and China have used their domestically produced vaccines for strategic leverage.

China has pledged roughly half a billion doses to more than 45 countries, according to a country-by-country tally by The Associated Press.

Four of China's many vaccine makers are claiming they will be able to produce at least 2.6 billion doses this year.

Russia has sent millions of doses of its Sputnik V vaccine to countries around the world, even as it vaccinates its own population. Analysts say a goal of this vaccine diplomacy is to bolster Russia's image as a scientific, technological and benevolent power, especially as other countries encounter shortages of COVID-19 vaccines because richer nations are scooping up the Western-made versions.

Israel, which has vaccinated more than half of its population with Pfizer vaccines produced in Europe, has also attempted to use vaccine diplomacy to reward allies.

Biden did move to have the U.S. contribute financially to the United Nations- and World Health Organization-backed COVAX alliance, which will help share vaccine with more than 90 lower and middle-income nations, but the U.S. has yet to commit to sharing any doses.

Cuomo defiant as wave of lawmakers calls for him to resign

By MARINA VILLENEUVE
and STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Facing unprecedented political isolation, a defiant New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo insisted on Friday that he would not step down in the wake of sexual harassment allegations and condemned the sprawling coalition of Democrats calling for his resignation as “reckless and dangerous.”

The third-term Democratic governor, a leading critic of former President Donald Trump's pandemic response, evoked the Republican in defending himself against “cancel culture.”

“I’m not going to resign,” Cuomo said during an afternoon phone call with reporters. “I did not do what has been alleged. Period.” He added: “People know the difference between playing politics, bowing to cancel culture and the truth.”

The embattled governor's comments came on the



This Monday, March 8, 2021, file photo shows New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaking at a vaccination site in New York.

Associated Press

day his party in New York and beyond turned sharply against him following allegations of harassment as well as sweeping criticism of Cuomo for keeping secret how many nursing home residents died of

COVID-19 for months. Cuomo's growing list of detractors now covers virtually every region in the state and the political power centers of New York City and Washington.

A majority of Democrats in the state legislature and 21 of the state's 27 U.S. House members have called on him to step down.

The escalating political crisis jeopardizes Cuomo's 2022 reelection in an overwhelmingly Democratic state, and threatens to cast a cloud over President Joe Biden's early days in office. Republicans across the country have seized on the scandal to try to distract from Biden's success with the pandemic and challenge his party's well-established advantage with female voters.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, declined to comment Friday on Cuomo's crisis, but stood alongside Biden in a Rose Garden ceremony celebrating the passage of the Democrat-backed \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief bill.

Hours earlier, White House press secretary Jen Psaki declined to say whether President Biden believes Cuomo should resign.

She said every woman who has come forth about harassment by the New York governor “deserves

to have her voice heard, should be treated with respect and should be able to tell her story.”

Dozens of Democrats had already called on Cuomo to resign this week, but the coalition of critics expanded geographically and politically on Friday to include the likes of New York City progressive Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez; the leader of the House Democratic campaign arm, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney; Buffalo-based Rep. Brian Higgins; and a group of Long Island-based state lawmakers who had been loyal Cuomo allies.

Never before has the brash, 63-year-old Democratic governor, the son of a New York governor himself, been more politically alone. “The victims of sexual assault concern me more than politics or other narrow considerations, and I believe Governor Cuomo must step aside,” Maloney said. Ocasio-Cortez said she believes the women who accused Cuomo of wrongdoing. “After two accounts of sexual assault, four accounts of harassment, the Attorney General's investigation finding the Governor's admin hid nursing home data from the legislature and public, we agree with the 55+ members of the New York State legislature that the

Governor must resign,” she tweeted.

Cuomo on Friday insisted that he never touched anyone inappropriately, and said again that he's sorry if he ever made anyone uncomfortable. He declined to answer a direct question about whether he's had a consensual romantic relationship with any of the women.

“I have not had a sexual relationship that was inappropriate, period,” he said. The governor in recent days has been calling lawmakers and supporters asking them to refrain from calling for his resignation, and instead support the ongoing investigations. His strategy does not appear to be working. The state Assembly allowed an impeachment investigation into Cuomo on Thursday as lawmakers investigate whether there are grounds for his forcible removal from office.

The firestorm around the governor grew after the Times Union of Albany reported Wednesday that an unidentified aide had claimed Cuomo reached under her shirt and fondled her at his official residence late last year.

The woman hasn't filed a criminal complaint, but a lawyer for the governor said Thursday that the state reported the allegation to the Albany Police Department after the woman involved declined to do so herself.

Additionally, Cuomo is facing multiple allegations of sexually suggestive remarks and behavior toward women, including female aides. One aide said he asked her if she would ever have sex with an older man.

And another aide claimed the governor once kissed her without consent, and said governor's aides publicly smeared her after she accused him of sexual harassment.

The governor on Friday vowed that he'll still be able to govern despite a growing list of New York elected officials who say they've lost faith in his ability to govern. □



Electric Time technician Dan LaMoore lights up a two-dial Howard Post Clock, Tuesday, March 9, 2021, in Medfield, Mass.

Associated Press

No need to lose sleep over shift to daylight saving time

WASHINGTON (AP) — No need to lose sleep over the shift to daylight saving time this weekend.

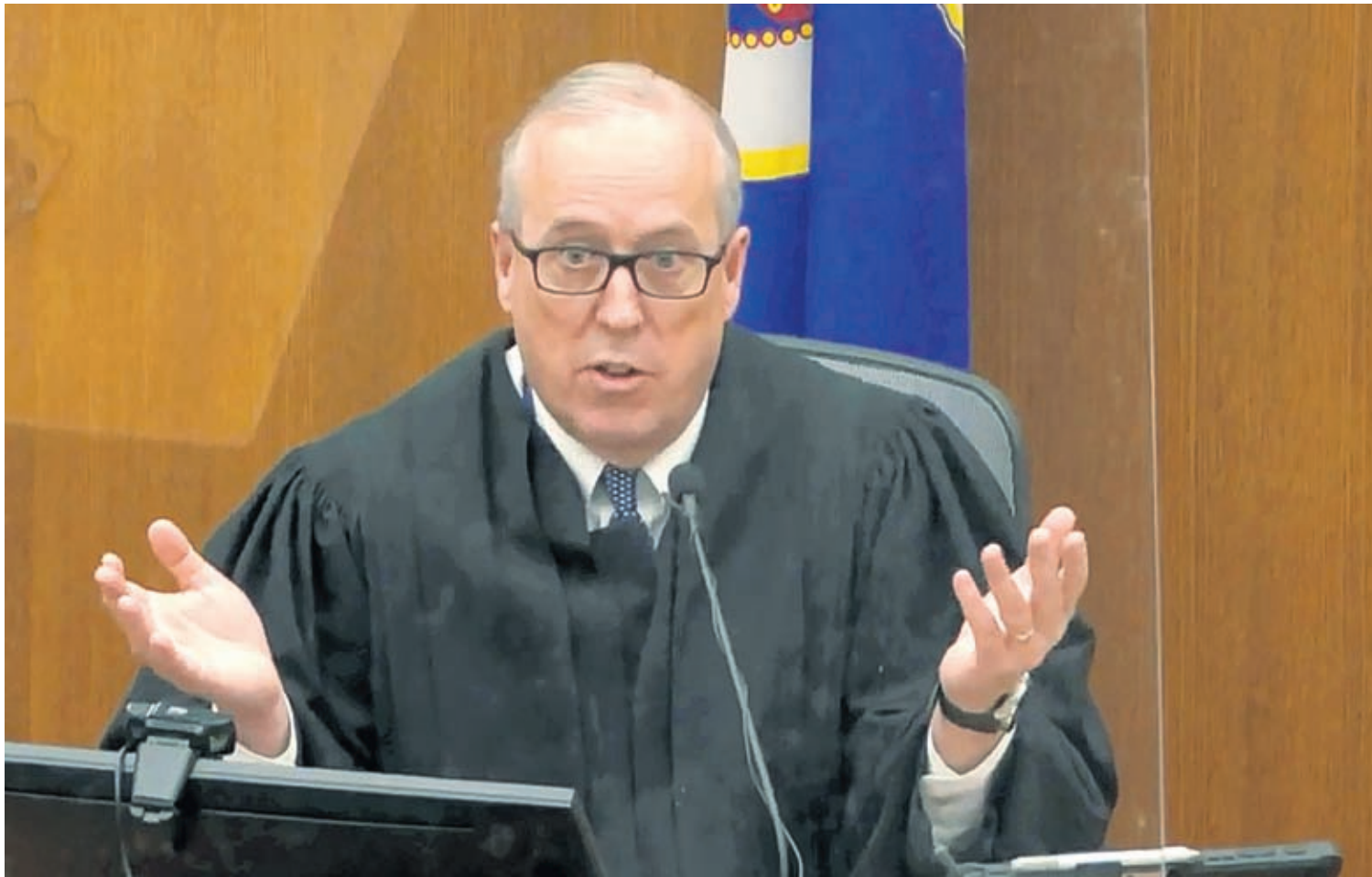
The sun will still come up, though the dawn's early light will break through later than it has during the months of standard time and the twilight's last gleaming will extend deeper into the evening.

The annual shift comes at 2 a.m. local time Sunday in most of the United States. Don't forget to set your clocks an hour ahead, usually before bed Saturday night, to avoid being late for Sunday morning activities.

No time change is observed in Hawaii, most of Arizona, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas.

Standard time returns Nov. 7. □

Minneapolis to pay \$27M to settle Floyd family lawsuit



In this image taken from video, Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill speaks during pretrial motions, prior to continuing jury selection in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, Thursday, March 11, 2021, at the Hennepin County Courthouse in Minneapolis, Minn.

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and AMY FORLITI

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The city of Minneapolis on Friday agreed to pay \$27 million to settle a civil lawsuit from George Floyd's family over the Black man's death in police custody, as jury selection continued in a former officer's murder trial. Council members met privately to discuss the settlement, then returned to public session for a unanimous vote in support of the massive payout. It easily surpassed the \$20 million the city approved two years ago to the family of a white woman killed by a police officer.

Floyd family attorney Ben Crump called it the largest pretrial settlement ever for a civil rights claim, and thanked city leaders for "showing you care about George Floyd."

"It's going to be a long journey to justice. This is just one step on the journey to justice," Crump said. "This makes a statement that George Floyd deserved better than what we witnessed on May 25, 2020, that George Floyd's life

mattered, and that by extension, Black lives matter." George Floyd's sister Bridgett Floyd, who attended jury selection earlier this week for former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, said in a statement she was glad the lawsuit was resolved.

"Our family suffered an irreplaceable loss May 25 when George's life was senselessly taken by a Minneapolis police officer. While we will never get our beloved George back, we will continue to work tirelessly to make this world a better, and safer, place for all," she said.

The settlement includes \$500,000 for the south Minneapolis neighborhood that includes the 38th and Chicago intersection that has been blocked by barricades since his death, with a massive metal sculpture and murals in his honor. The city didn't immediately say how that money would be spent.

Floyd was declared dead on May 25 after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against his neck for about nine minutes. Floyd's death sparked sometimes

violent protests in Minneapolis and beyond and led to a national reckoning on racial justice.

"I hope that today will center the voices of the family and anything that they would like to share," Council President Lisa Bender said.

"But I do want to, on behalf of the entire City Council, offer my deepest condolences to the family of George Floyd, his friends and all of our community who are mourning his loss." Floyd's family filed the federal civil rights lawsuit in July against the city, Chauvin and three other fired officers charged in his death. It alleged the officers violated Floyd's rights when they restrained him, and that the city allowed a culture of excessive force, racism and impunity to flourish in its police force.

In 2019, Minneapolis agreed to pay \$20 million to the family of Justine Ruszczyk Damond, an unarmed woman who was shot by an officer after she called 911 to report hearing a possible crime happening behind her home, to settle her family's civil rights lawsuit.

Damond was white.

The federal lawsuit sought unspecified compensatory and special damages in an amount to be determined by a jury. It also sought a receiver to be appointed to ensure that the city properly trains and supervises officers in the future.

It wasn't immediately clear how the settlement might affect the trial or the jury now being seated to hear it. Joseph Daly, a professor emeritus at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, said it will be hard to stop jurors or potential jurors from hearing about it.

"Judge Cahill will likely explain to the jurors that each must make a decision based solely on the evidence they hear in the criminal trial," Daly said. Meanwhile, another potential juror was dismissed Friday after she acknowledged having a negative view of the defendant.

The woman, a recent college graduate, said she had seen bystander video of Floyd's arrest and closely read news coverage of the case. In response to a jury pool questionnaire, she said she had a "somewhat

negative" view of Chauvin and that she thought he held his knee to Floyd's neck for too long.

"I could only watch part of the video, and from what I saw as a human, I, that did not give me a good impression," she said. She said she did not watch the bystander video in its entirety because "I just couldn't watch it anymore."

The woman repeatedly said she could put aside her opinions and decide the case on the facts, but Chauvin attorney Eric Nelson nonetheless used one of his 15 challenges to dismiss her.

With jury selection in its fourth day, six people have been seated — five men and one woman. Three of those seated are white, one is multiracial, one is Hispanic and one is Black, according to Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill.

Cahill has set aside three weeks for jury selection, with opening statements no sooner than March 29.

Friday's quick dismissal echoed others earlier in the case for similar reasons. On Thursday, one woman was dismissed after she said she "can't unsee the video" of Chauvin pinning Floyd.

Nelson pressed the woman hard on whether she could be fair despite her strong opinions.

"Looking in your heart and looking in your mind can you assure us you can set all of that aside, all of that, and focus only on the evidence that is presented in this courtroom?" Nelson asked.

"I can assure you, but like you mentioned earlier, the video is going to be a big part of the evidence and there's no changing my mind about that," she replied.

Potential jurors' identities are being protected and they are not shown on livestreamed video of the proceedings.

Chauvin and three other officers were fired. The others face an August trial on aiding and abetting charges. The defense hasn't said whether Chauvin will testify in his own defense. □

Case of U.K. woman who vanished on way home stirs grief, anger

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The suspected abduction and murder of a young London woman as she walked home has dismayed Britain and revived a painful question: Why are women too often not safe on the streets?

The fate of Sarah Everard is all the more shocking because the suspect arrested on suspicion of killing her is a U.K. police officer whose job was protecting top politicians and diplomats.

Everard, a 33-year-old marketing executive, set out on the 50-minute walk home from a friend's house in south London at about 9 p.m. on March 3. She did not arrive. On Friday police confirmed that a body found hidden in woodland 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of the city is hers. London police arrested a member of the force's Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Command on Tuesday as a suspect in the case. The officer in his 40s, whose name has not been released, is being held on suspicion of kidnapping



A missing sign outside Poynders Court on the A205 in Clapham, London Wednesday March 10, 2021 during the continuing search for Sarah Everard who has been missing for a week.

Associated Press

and murder but has not yet been charged.

In a statement issued Thursday, Everard's family said "our beautiful daughter Sarah was taken from us and we are appealing for any information that will help to solve this terrible crime."

"I know that the public feel

hurt and angry about what has happened, and those are sentiments I share personally," said Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Nick Ephgrave, Everard's disappearance and killing has caused a nationwide outcry, with thousands appealing on social media for informa-

tion to help find her. Women also then began sharing experiences of being threatened or attacked — or simply facing the everyday fear of violence when walking alone. "When she went missing, any woman who has ever walked home alone at night felt that grim, instinctive sense of recogni-

tion," columnist Gaby Hinsliff wrote in The Guardian. "Footsteps on a dark street. Keys gripped between your fingers. There but for the grace of God."

Organizers of a planned vigil in Everard's memory planned to go to court Friday after police said they could not gather because of coronavirus restrictions. Britain is now in lockdown and all mass assemblies are banned.

The Reclaim These Streets organizers want to hold a socially distanced gathering Saturday on Clapham Common, an open space on the route of Everard's walk home.

Anna Birley, one of the organizers, said "safety has been a priority from the get-go."

"It would be ironic to organize a vigil to think about women's safety in public spaces without also thinking about the health and safety aspects," she said.

The police force said in a statement it was "in discussion with the organizers about this event in light of the current COVID regulations." □

Newspaper: China to soon try 2 Canadians on spying charges

BEIJING (AP) — A Communist Party newspaper says China will soon begin trials for two Canadians who were arrested two years ago in apparent retaliation for Canada's detention of a senior executive for Chinese communications giant Huawei Technologies. The Global Times said Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor "will soon be tried" after they were charged with "crimes undermining China's national security" in June 2020.

Kovrig, a former diplomat, and Spavor, an entrepreneur, were arrested in December 2018, days after Meng Wanzhou was detained at Vancouver airport. The U.S. wants her extradited to face fraud charges.

China has revealed few details of the charges against the two, and Ca-

nadian diplomats allowed occasional visits have said little other than to call for them to be released.

The Global Times said Kovrig was "accused of having used an ordinary passport and business visa to enter China to steal sensitive information and intelligence through contacts in China since 2017, while Spavor was accused of being a key source of intelligence for Kovrig."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said he had no additional details, but that China had "fully protected all the legal rights of the people concerned," including allowing Canadian diplomats to visit the two.

In Canada, Global Affairs Canada spokesperson Christelle Chartrand said it was not aware of any set timeframe for the trials.

"The Canadian government remains deeply concerned by the arbitrary detention by Chinese authorities of Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig since December 2018 and continues to call for their immediate release," she said in a statement. "To date, Global Affairs Canada has not been notified of court hearings for Mr. Kovrig or Mr. Spavor."

Meng, who remains free on bail in Vancouver, is also the daughter of the founder of Huawei, which China's government has promoted around the world as one of its national champions.

Her arrest enraged Beijing, which sees the U.S. case as a political move designed to prevent China's rise, and it sent China-Canada relations into a tailspin.

China has also retaliated

by placing restrictions on various Canadian exports to China, including canola oil seed, and handed death sentences to four Canadians convicted of drug smuggling.

Beijing has repeatedly demanded Meng's immediate, unconditional release as her case winds its way through the Canadian legal system.

The Communist Party newspaper's report late Thursday gave no details of the timing or location of the proceedings again Kovrig and Spavor and cited a "source close to the matter" whom it did not further identify.

Hearings have been delayed because of COVID-19 prevention measures but the court will "push forward the trial soon," the newspaper said. □



In this Aug. 16, 2020, file photo, a woman holds a sign with images of Michael Kovrig, left, and Michael Spavor, who have been detained in China since December 2018, during a rally in support of Hong Kong democracy, in Vancouver, Canada.

Associated Press

Memo banning Afghan girls singing prompts #IAmMySong protest

By KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— A memo from Afghanistan's education ministry banning girls 12 years old and older from singing at school functions has been causing a stir on social media, prompting the authorities to say it was a mistake and that its authors had misunderstood the objective.

Still, #IAmMySong is gaining traction on Twitter, with some Afghan girls singing their favorite tunes for the camera and calls popping up for petitions to oppose the directive.

The controversy comes as women's rights activists and civil society groups are fighting to ensure that fragile human rights gains made over the last 20 years in Afghanistan — since the U.S.-led invasion ousted the Taliban regime — take center stage in the peace talks underway with the insurgents. It also shows how the rights of girls and women are under threat from conservatives on both sides of the protracted conflict.

"This is Talibanization from inside the republic," Sima Samar, an Afghan human rights activist of nearly 40



In this Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020, students attend an open air class at a primary school in Kabul, Afghanistan,

Associated Press

years, said on Friday. When they ruled the country, the Taliban — notorious for their repression of women — denied girls the right to education. Music, except religious songs, was also banned, as was television.

The memo, which went to all school districts in Kabul, was rescinded, said ministry spokeswoman Najiba Arian, insisting that its authors had misunderstood the purpose. A new memo

was subsequently sent, saying music groups for both secondary school girls and boys are banned.

The objective was not to ban girls singing but to prevent boys and girls from participating in public events that could spread the coronavirus, she said. Afghanistan has recorded more than 55,000 cases of the virus and 2,451 deaths but testing is inadequate and the real numbers are

believed to be far greater. The hashtag campaign was started by Ahmad Sarmast, the founder of Afghanistan's Institute of Music.

It has had over 600,000 clicks, according to Haroon Baluch of BytesforAll, a Pakistan-based rights organization that monitors internet traffic. He also said the trend is building.

Sarmast said he began the #IAmMySong to "let

authorities know that the people of Afghanistan oppose this decision and they will stand for the rights of the children, whether boys or girls."

The memo, a copy of which was seen by The Associated Press, does not mention the pandemic or any health concerns. Rather it clearly states that girls older than 12 cannot perform in any public events and that singing at such events is strictly forbidden. It goes on to say that only female teachers can teach music to girls older than 12.

"The education department of Kabul city, all government, private sector and literacy centers are seriously advised not to let female students . . . above 12 years of age participate and sing in any type of events or general programs," it said, with the exception of all-female gatherings. Samar, who launched Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission in 2002 and served as its head until 2019, said the directive violates basic human rights. It also violates the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children, to which Afghanistan is a signatory, she added. □

Tape that: Dutch inventor of audio cassette dies at age 94

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Lou Ottens, the

Dutch inventor of the cassette tape, the medium of choice for millions of bedroom mix tapes, has died, said Philips, the company where he also helped develop the compact disc.

Ottens died Saturday at age 94, Philips confirmed.

A structural engineer who trained at the prestigious Technical University in Delft, he joined Philips in 1952 and was head of the Dutch company's product development department when he began work on an alternative for existing tape recorders with their cumbersome large spools of tape.

His goal was simple. Make tapes and their players far

more portable and easier to use.

"During the development

of the cassette tape, in the early 1960s, he had a wooden block made that

fit exactly in his coat pocket," said Olga Coolen, director of the Philips Museum in the southern city of Eindhoven.

"This was how big the first Compact Cassette was to be, making it a lot handier than the bulky tape recorders in use at the time." The final product created in 1962 later turned into a worldwide hit, with more than 100 billion cassettes sold, many to music fans who would record their own compilations direct from the radio.

Its popularity waned with the development of the compact disc, an invention Ottens also helped create as supervisor of a development team, Philips said.

The cassette tape's success stemmed from its sim-

plicity, Ottens said in an interview published by the Philips Museum.

"It was a breakthrough because it was foolproof," he said, adding that players and recorders also could run on batteries, making them very user-friendly and, ultimately, portable. "Everybody could put music in their pocket," Ottens said.

The prototype wooden block never made it to the company's museum. Ottens used it to prop up his jack when replacing a wheel with a flat tire and left it by the side of a road, Coolen said.

"Lou loved technology, when he talked about that his eyes began to twinkle," museum director Coolen said. □



In this photo dated 1988, structural engineer Lou Ottens holding an audio cassette poses for a photo.

Associated Press

Puerto Rico to reopen historic church after long restoration

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The construction worker stood on his tiptoes and tried to arrange a crown of thorns on a statue of Jesus while architect Jorge Rigau fired a flurry of directions from beneath the ladder. “Grab it like this and move it just a bit,” he said, motioning with his fingers. “Move it to the right, but don’t lower it.”

It was one of the final touches on a detailed restoration of the second oldest surviving Spanish church in the Americas, whose construction had begun by 1532 on land donated by famous explorer Juan Ponce de León and whose base was erected atop an Indigenous settlement.

The church was built for a Dominican convent where the renowned Spanish priest Bartolomé de las Casas once lived, served as shelter during an attack by the Indigenous Taínos, became Puerto Rico’s first high school and was damaged by a cannonball during the 1898 Spanish-American War in which Spain ceded Puerto Rico to the U.S.

But the San José Church surpassed in age only by the Spanish cathedral in



The San Jose Church, the second oldest Spanish church in the Americas, stands in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

the neighboring Dominican Republic — was shuttered in 1996 due to serious deterioration. San Juan’s own cathedral dates to 1521, but the original wooden building was destroyed and the current structure dates to 1540.

The \$11 million restoration became a personal project for businessman Ricardo González that took nearly two decades to complete. Many thought it would fail due to funding problems, the lack of an

original blueprint to provide guidance and widespread deterioration including termites, pigeon droppings and tree roots that had pierced the church’s Gothic-style nave whose ribbed vault was once described as “a grand accomplishment rarely seen outside Europe.”

González, who is active in the Catholic Church, volunteered to help oversee its reconstruction in the early 2000s with permission from Msgr. Roberto González,

the archbishop of San Juan. He figured it would take one year to complete. But as workers probed with radar and laser technology and physically peeled away the church’s layers, they uncovered centuries-old murals and architectural techniques once used by the Romans. Ricardo González realized he faced a deep and lengthy restoration process.

“When we started on that, there was no turning back,” he said.

In 2009, he founded the Patronage of Monuments of San Juan, Inc. to raise more funds for the project. Donations ranged from a couple of quarters to large amounts given by businesses, nonprofit organizations and wealthy Puerto Ricans. Actor Benicio del Toro joined the pleas for donations as the building was added to the 11 most endangered historic places listed by the U.S. National Trust for Historic Preservation.

For years, tourists and locals had all but given up on being able to once again visit the site.

On a recent visit to the church, González’s eyes teared up.

“Every day I walk through there and get emotional,” he said as he stood on the roof and gestured at the building. “I’ve seen the movie, you know?”

It began, he said, with National Park Service experts showing construction workers how to use lime in accordance with the church’s original workmanship. Workers then had to chip away the concrete that covered the walls of the nearly 17,000-square-foot church bit by bit, in tiny sections to avoid damaging what might be below. □

Associated Press

Bolivia: Arrest orders for ex-military, police chiefs

By CARLOS VALDEZ

Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)

— Bolivia’s chief prosecutor has ordered the arrest of the former Armed Forces and police commanders for their role in suggesting the resignation of former President Evo Morales, which backers of his party — now back in power — consider a coup.

The arrest orders for sedition and conspiracy were issued Thursday for Gen. William Kaliman and former police commander Yuri Calderón, who had urged Morales to resign in November 2019 at a

moment when the nation was convulsed with protests against his reelection, which opponents considered fraudulent.

Having lost the backing of the security forces, Morales fled into exile and a conservative interim government took power under former legislator Jeanine Áñez, who is also now under investigation.

The interim authorities, who themselves had tried to prosecute supporters of Morales, lost last year’s elections and Morales Movement Toward Socialism Party won power again under his chosen

successor, Luis Arce.

The decision to arrest Kaliman and Calderón was denounced by the independent Permanent Assembly of Human Rights of Bolivia, a group that originally emerged to confront military dictatorships in the 1970s and 1980s.

Both allies and foes of Morales allege they were victim of deadly persecution either before or after his ouster.

Kaliman and Calderón had said that only Morales’ resignation could pacify the polarized nation. Kaliman, who had been appointed by Morales, was



Sitting in front of a billboard of Bolivia’s former President Evo Morales promoting the construction of a school.

Associated Press

replaced shortly after the leftist departed.

Also under investigation is Luis Fernando Camacho, governor-elect of Santa Cruz province, who was a key backer of the effort to remove Morales. Neither

he nor Áñez yet face arrest warrants.

Official efforts to question Camacho on Thursday were suspended when a massive array of his followers appeared at the courthouse. □

LOCAL



NOORD — Tuscany Residence Aruba is found in one of the most popular neighborhoods of Aruba, close to the shopping and nightlife of Palm Beach, and best of all it is within walking distance of the finest white beaches and clear blue ocean. Tuscany Residence Aruba brings luxury living to a new level.

180 exclusive properties will be built suitable for everyone's wishes. The buildings varies greatly in layout and offers amazing views. You can choose from 2 or 3-story villas with a private pool and a rooftop terrace, condominiums, townhouses. Tuscany Residence Aruba enjoys an abundance of luxury amenities and services. Soon a new concept consisting of 18, 1 and 2-story water villas. Everything is aimed at providing homeowners and holiday makers of Tuscany Residence Aruba with a relaxing stay.

Dutch design

Tuscany Residence Aruba is a residence that is currently being built and will develop in the coming years into a luxury residential resort with various types of homes and many amenities such as swimming pools, restaurant, bar, offices, meeting rooms, gym, wellness and more. The combination of the beautiful Dutch modern international architecture and the Aruban palm trees creates a luxurious Aruban feeling and relaxed atmosphere in this resort. Tuscany Residence Aruba is the perfect choice for couples and families. Bas de Groot, Managing Director of Tuscany Residence Aruba adds, "We differ from traditional building, our design distinguishes itself." At 8 minutes' walk from Palm Beach, designed in a European style with high-quality materials, on property land and with buying possibilities from condos to townhouses to villas, Tuscany Residence is a dream comes true. "We just completed the community pool and the first villa. Eight townhouses are ready and three are still available. There is lots to see, you are invited. Our quality will convince you."

We take care of it all

De Groot adds, "Our project is in continuous construction which builds confidence. Aside of the town houses and villa you can see the community pool now, providing you with the idea of style and quality of our residence." He continues saying that maintenance, property management, rental program and safety are taken care of. "You can log in from abroad and manage your property for rental or view your administration." The great thing about Tuscany is that it offers everything equal to a resort but you do not need to wait for an elevator to bring you up,

Welcome to Tuscany Residence Aruba: Aruba's Luxury Residential Resort

worry about parking space or noisy neighbors. "We have got space and different size offerings making this more a community feel rather than a packed condo building." He also emphasizes that the location is one of the best on Aruba as it is quiet and close to Palm Beach.



Townhouses

3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms

Price starting U.S. \$ 347,000, community fee U.S. \$ 200/month

Still 3 Available.



Luxury Villas

3 and 4 bedrooms, 3.5 and 4.5 bathrooms, Private Pool

Price starting U.S. \$ 788,000, community fee U.S. \$ 275/mth

Still 2 Available.

Coming Soon: 18 Luxury Water Villas

The Concept: 18- 2 and 3 bedroom villas around 1 communal pool with covered terrace and garden at the pool side. Soon we will start the presale and if you are interested please contact us!

Reasons to buy

Reasons to consider Aruba property ownership, at Tuscany Residence Aruba

- Excellent price-quality ratio
- Beautiful designs & Quality construction
- Residential Park with all amenities
- Property land on top-location
- Varies properties in different price range
- Onsite Maintenance Team, Property Management & Rental Program



Are you looking for a safe, quiet, residential area where you will meet a mix of local and foreign owners? Do you feel for a warm community with amenities like wellness, gym, restaurants, pools and this all within a structure where the residence takes care of your property management while you are not here? Can the highest European quality and solid working structure take away your preoccupations while you are home? Than meet us, we are here to convince you with quality! ☐



Tuscany Residence Aruba
Salina Cerca 131, Noord,
Aruba
info@tuscanyresidencearuba.com
(+297) 280 4664
(+297) 733 2424

MONDAY MADNESS AND BINGO ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

**Free Shirt
Sunday!**

Get a **FREE** Alhambra
T-Shirt when you earn
250 Slot Points on Sunday with
your **Players' Club card!**

**THE SHOPS
AT ALHAMBRA CASINO**

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

**Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins
Hungry Piranha | Aruba Aloe
Shalom Body & Soul Spa**

Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar, MAGNET – Perfume, Jewelry & Cosmetics

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 9am to 11pm | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



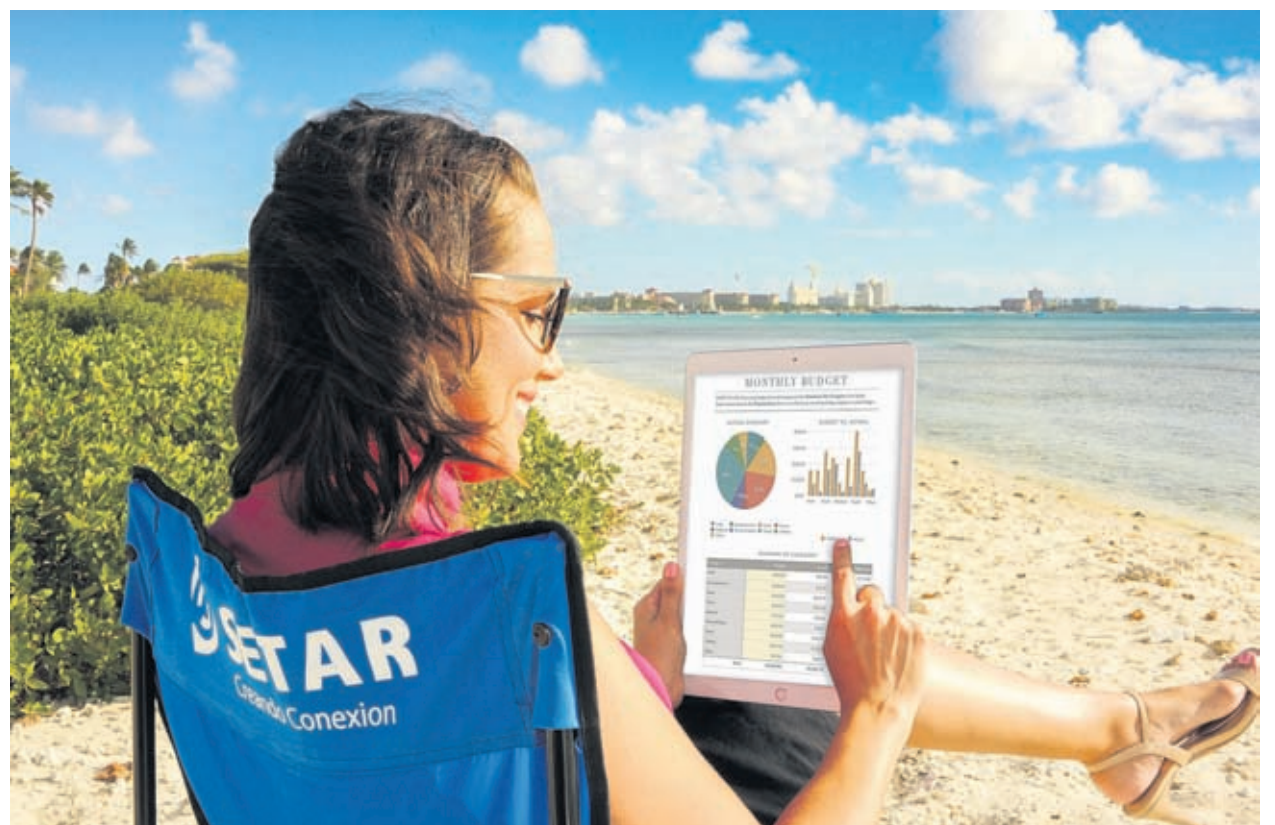
Prepaid High-Speed Internet anywhere on the island

ORANJESTAD — Are you in Aruba for "Workation" and need high-speed Internet anywhere at any time? SETAR, Aruba's biggest telecom provider, offers you the fastest wireless Internet plans on an LTE network.

Work remotely on the beach via your tablet, laptop, or smartphone and enjoy faster upload and download speeds. SETAR Prepaid Wireless Broadband offers you a lower latency rate, meaning websites loads faster, YouTube does not pause every five seconds, and apps download at a higher speed, all using your Mi-Fi device.

SETAR Wireless Broadband Prepaid offers you Internet anywhere for a fixed fee without worrying about additional charges, and it is easy to use and access. Choose the bundle that suits your budget and needs.

Visit SETAR Teleshop with locations around the island or at the airport to check your Mi-Fi SIM or device. □



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't



that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received an amazing picture from **James Lane and Karin Lopez** from Clif-

ton Park, NY. They say:

"Aruba to me is making memories with the closest friends, who actually are family to us! This past year has made me realize to appreciate the "little things" in life like sunrises, sunsets and making memories together with friends and family. This trip meant alot to me because I was able to come to Aruba, to see friends that I've made there from Aruba (the Renaissance Ocean Suite Family), to eat wonderful Arubian food (DUSHI) and it made me realize that life is too short not to enjoy it on one of the happiest islands on earth. Aruba takes our hearts to a place of serenity and peace...Salud! (cheers)." □

Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it

had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches



in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view.

Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish.

Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



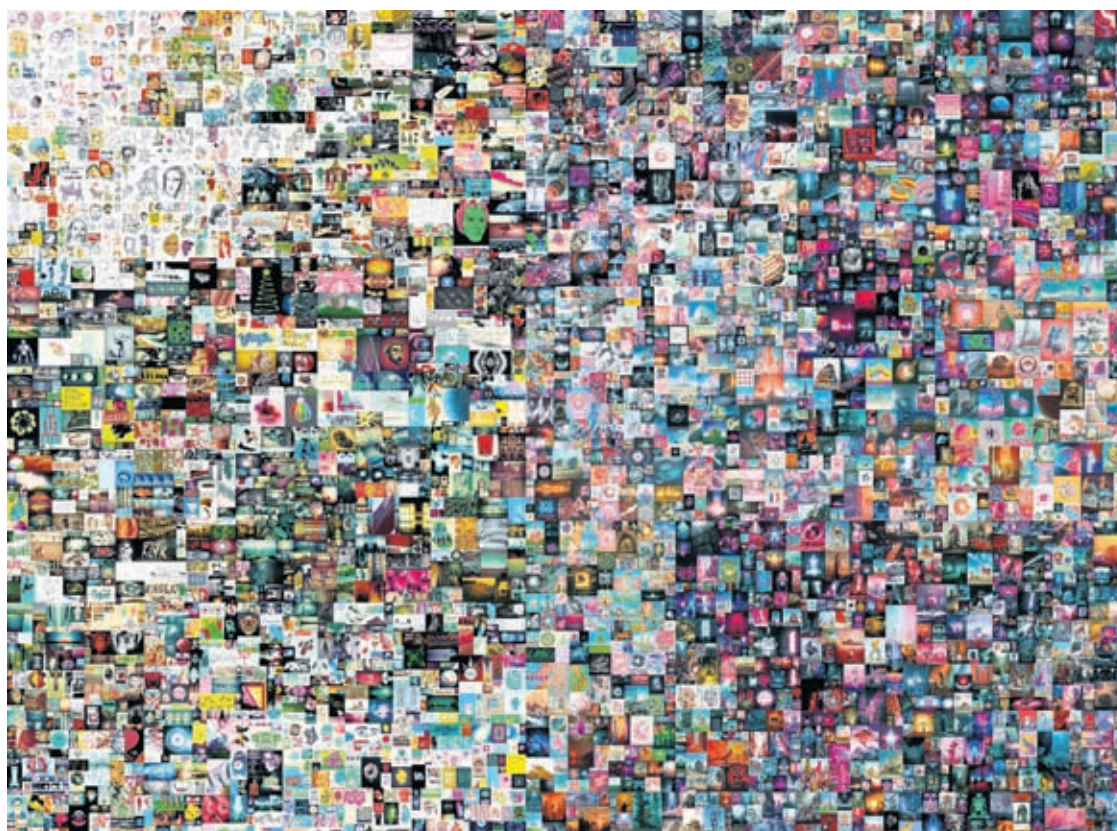
EXPLAINER: What's this craze for 'NFTs' all about, anyway?

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — A digital art piece, tweaked using cryptocurrency technology to make it one-of-a-kind, sold at auction this week for nearly \$70 million. That transaction made global headlines and buoyed already-mushrooming interest in these kinds of digital objects known as non-fungible tokens, or NFTs that have captured the attention of artists and collectors alike.

A NON-WHAT TOKEN?

In economics jargon, a fungible token is an asset that can be exchanged on a one-for-one basis. Think of dollars or bitcoins — each one has the exact same value and can be traded freely. A non-fungible object, by contrast, has its own distinct value, like an old house or a classic car. Cross this notion with cryptocurrency technology known as the blockchain and you get NFTs. These are effectively digital certificates of authenticity that can be attached to digital art or, well, pretty much anything else that comes in digital form — audio files, video clips, animated stickers, this article you're reading. NFTs confirm an item's ownership by recording the details on a digital ledger



This undated photo released by Christie's on Thursday, March 11, 2021 shows a digital collage titled "Everydays: The First 5,000 Days," by an artist named Beeple.

known as a blockchain, which is public and stored on computers across the internet, making it effectively impossible to destroy or lose.

These tokens are white-hot in the collecting world at the moment, where they're being used to solve a problem central to digital collectibles: how to claim ownership of something that can be easily and endlessly duplicated.

I STILL DON'T GET IT. CAN'T

ANYONE JUST COPY DIGITAL STUFF OFF THE INTERNET?

Sure, anyone can download a copy of Beeple's art from his social media feed, print it out, and hang it on the wall. Just like you can take a photo of the Mona Lisa in the Louvre or buy a print from the museum gift shop. But that doesn't mean you own those original artworks. One purpose of NFTs is that they can be used to trace an object's digital provenance, allow-

ing a select few to prove ownership. In the broader picture, it's a way to create scarcity — albeit artificial so that you can sell something for higher prices thanks to its scarcity. "All the time, money and effort you spend in your digital life, you can create value for that," said Chicago fund manager Andrew Steinwold, who started an NFT fund in 2019. "You have property rights in the physical world. Why don't we have property

Associated Press

rights in the digital world?"

SO WHAT'S A BEEPLE?

Beeple is an American digital artist whose real name is Mike Winkelmann and is based in South Carolina. He's been creating digital sketches using 3D tools on a daily basis for the past 13 years. Auction house Christie's calls his work "abstract, fantastical, grotesque or absurd" and it has gained him 1.9 million followers on Instagram. In December, the first extensive auction of his art brought in \$3.5 million, an eye-catching amount that was surpassed by this week's record-shattering sale of his collage "Everydays: The First 5,000 Days" for nearly \$70 million.

SO WHO ELSE IS SELLING NFTs?

William Shatner of "Star Trek" fame sold 90,000 virtual trading cards last year for \$1 each. Electronic musician Grimes sold \$6 million worth of her digital art last month, including a video clip featuring winged cherubs floating in pastel dreamscapes that went for \$389,000. Clips of NBA star LeBron James dunking are selling for as much as \$225,000. Actress Lindsey Lohan sold an image of her face. You can also buy virtual land in video games and meme characters like Nyan Cat. □

Honda of America plans to sell 2 fully electric SUVs in 2024

DETROIT (AP) — Honda has plans to sell two all-electric SUVs in the U.S. for the 2024 model year, and it soon will offer hybrid gas-

electric versions of its top-selling models.

The announcements Thursday come as the automaker acknowledges it

has work to do to comply with emissions-reduction targets that will be coming from the Biden administration, and a California ban on sales of new internal-combustion vehicles by 2035.

Honda of America sales chief Dave Gardner told reporters one of the electric SUVs will be from the Honda brand, while the other will be an Acura. Honda will offer more details later this year, he said. Underpinnings of the new vehicles will come from a partnership with General Motors, while the tops would be made by Honda, he said. As part of Hon-

da's efforts to meet stricter emissions standards, it will reduce emissions from its internal combustion vehicles, Gardner said. Already the company has a hybrid called the Insight, as well as hybrid versions of its Accord midsize car, CR-V small SUV. Gardner said there will probably be one or two additions that he would not identify.

He conceded that Honda isn't leading the race to electric vehicles and wouldn't say when it will go all-electric. Honda is focused on being carbon-neutral by 2050 and is aware that President Joe Biden is focused on zero

emissions, not just reducing them, he said.

"We've got to now focus all of our energies in this direction in order to meet timelines," he said.

Honda has been a dominant passenger-car seller for decades but U.S. buyers are shifting toward SUVs and trucks. And it's also a large manufacturer of internal combustion engines, Gardner said.

"We're really good at a couple of things that seem to be going out of vogue today, so there's no doubt that we have work to start moving quickly in the zero-emission direction," he said. □



This Feb. 14, 2019 file photo shows a Honda logo at the 2019 Pittsburgh International Auto Show in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Defying rules, anti-vaccine accounts thrive on social media

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and
AMANDA SEITZ

The Associated Press

With vaccination against COVID-19 in full swing, social platforms like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter say they've stepped up their fight against misinformation that aims to undermine trust in the vaccines. But problems abound.

For years, the same platforms have allowed anti-vaccination propaganda to flourish, making it difficult to stamp out such sentiments now. And their efforts to weed out other types of COVID-19 misinformation often with fact-checks, informational labels and other restrained measures, has been woefully slow.

Twitter, for instance, announced this month that it will remove dangerous falsehoods about vaccines, much the same way it's done for other COVID-related conspiracy theories and misinformation. But since April 2020, it has removed a grand total of 8,400 tweets spreading COVID-related misinformation a tiny fraction of the avalanche of pandemic-related falsehoods tweeted out daily by popular users with millions of followers, critics say.

"While they fail to take action, lives are being lost," said Imran Ahmed, CEO of the Center for Countering Digital Hate, a watchdog group. In December, the nonprofit found that 59 million accounts across social platforms follow peddlers of anti-vax propaganda many of whom are immensely popular super-spreaders of misinformation. Efforts to crack down on vaccine misinformation now, though, are generating cries of censorship and prompting some posters to adopt sneaky tactics to avoid the axe.

"It's a hard situation because we have let this go for so long," said Jeanine Guidry, an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University who studies social media and health information. "People using social media have really been able to share what



In this Jan. 21, 2021 file photo a medical staff member prepares the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at Tudor Ranch in Mecca, Calif.

they want for nearly a decade." The Associated Press identified more than a dozen Facebook pages and Instagram accounts, collectively boasting millions of followers, that have made false claims about the COVID-19 vaccine or discouraged people from taking it. Some of these pages have existed for years. Of more than 15 pages identified by NewsGuard, a technology company that analyzes the credibility of websites, roughly half remain active on Facebook, the AP found. One such page, The Truth About Cancer, has more than a million Facebook followers after years of posting baseless suggestions that vaccines could cause autism or damage children's brains. The page was identified in November as a "COVID-19 vaccine misinformation super spreader" by NewsGuard. Recently, the page stopped posting about vaccines and the coronavirus. It now directs people to sign up for its newsletter and visit its website as a way to avoid alleged "censorship."

Facebook said it is taking "aggressive steps to fight misinformation across our apps by removing millions of pieces of COVID-19 and vaccine content on Facebook and Instagram

during the pandemic."

"Research shows one of the best ways to promote vaccine acceptance is by showing people accurate, trusted information, which is why we've connected 2 billion people to resources from health authorities and launched a global information campaign," the company said in a statement. Facebook also banned ads that discourage vaccines and said it has added warning labels to more than 167 million pieces of additional COVID-19 content thanks to our network of fact-checking partners. (The Associated Press is one of Facebook's fact-checking partners).

YouTube, which has generally avoided the same type scrutiny as its social media peers despite being a source of misinformation, said it has removed more than 30,000 videos since October, when it started banning false claims about COVID-19 vaccinations. Since February 2020, it has removed over 800,000 videos related to dangerous or misleading coronavirus information, said YouTube spokeswoman Elena Hernandez.

Prior to the pandemic, however, social media platforms had done little to stamp out misinformation, said Andy Pattison, manager of digital solutions for the

World Health Organization. In 2019, as a measles outbreak slammed the Pacific Northwest and left dozens dead in America Samoa, Pattison pleaded with big tech companies to take a closer look at tightening rules around vaccine misinformation that he feared might make the outbreak worse to no avail. It wasn't until COVID-19 struck with a vengeance that many of those tech companies started listening. Now he meets weekly with Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to discuss trends on their platforms and policies to consider.

"When it comes to vaccine misinformation, the really frustrating thing is that this has been around for years," Pattison said. The targets of such crackdowns are often quick to adapt. Some accounts use intentionally misspelled words like "vackseen" or "v@x" to avoid bans. (Social platforms say they're wise to this.) Other pages use more subtle messaging, images or memes to suggest that vaccines are unsafe or even deadly.

"When you die after the vaccine, you die of everything but the vaccine," read one meme on an Instagram account with more than 65,000 followers. The post suggested that the government is concealing

deaths from the COVID-19 vaccine. "It's a very fine line between freedom of speech and eroding science," Pattison said. Purveyors of misinformation, he said, "learn the rules, and they dance right on the edge, all the time."

Twitter said it is continuously reviewing its rules in the context of COVID-19 and changes them based on guidance from experts. Earlier this month, it added a strikes policy that threatens repeat spreaders of coronavirus and vaccine misinformation with bans.

But blatantly false COVID-19 information continues to pop up. Earlier this month, several articles circulating online claimed that more elderly Israelis who took the Pfizer vaccine were "killed" by the shot than those who died from COVID-19 itself. One such article from an anti-vaccination website was shared nearly 12,000 times on Facebook, leading earlier this month to a spike of nearly 40,000 mentions of "vaccine deaths" across social platforms and the internet, according to an analysis by media intelligence firm Signal Labs.

Medical experts point to a real-world study showing a strong correlation between vaccination and decreases in severe COVID-19 disease in Israel. The nation's health ministry said in a Thursday statement that the COVID-19 vaccine has "profoundly" reduced the rate of deaths and hospitalizations. As U.S. vaccine supplies continue to increase, immunization efforts will soon shift from targeting a limited supply to the most vulnerable populations to getting as many shots into as many arms as possible. That means tackling the third of the country's population who say they will not or probably won't get it, as measured by a February AP-NORC poll.

"Vaccine hesitancy and misinformation could be a big barrier to getting enough of the population vaccinated to end the crisis," said Lisa Fazio, a professor of psychology at Vanderbilt University. □

Philly to dim lights to make it safer for birds in flight

By SHAWN MARSH

Associated Press

The lights of Philadelphia might not shine as bright in the coming weeks as a coalition in the City of Brotherly Love tries to prevent millions of migrating birds that pass through twice a year from slamming into skyscrapers and crashing to the sidewalk.

Bird Safe Philly on Thursday announced the Lights Out Philly initiative, a voluntary program in which as many external and internal lights in buildings are turned off or dimmed at night during the spring and fall.

The problem of artificial lights attracting birds to their deaths in the city is not new.

"We have specimens in the academy's ornithology collection from a kill that happened when lights were first installed on Philadelphia's City Hall tower in 1896," said Jason Weckstein, associate curator of ornithology at Drexel University's Academy of Natural Sciences.

The coalition, which includes Audubon Mid-Atlantic, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club and two local Audubon chapters, formed after the city's largest mass-collision event in 70 years was reported last October. Hundreds of dead birds were found around the city.

"Conditions were perfect for a heavy migratory flight and imperfect given that there was a low ceiling of clouds and rain," Weckstein said.

"That in combination with Philly's bright city lights was a disaster for many fall migrant birds winging their



In this Nov. 14, 2016 file photo a supermoon sets behind the Philadelphia skyline.

Associated Press

way south."

Birds navigate during migration using celestial cues and when they cannot see stars on a cloudy night they get confused by bright city lights, according to experts.

Windows pose a problem, according to Weckstein, because birds might see a reflection of trees or the sky.

Scientists estimate between 365 million and one

billions birds are killed by collisions with buildings or other outdoor structures in the U.S. every year and those crashes are taking a toll on some species.

"The ovenbird and the black-throated blue warbler are among the hundreds of bird species that are now at an increased risk of extinction in North America because of climate change," said Keith Russell with Audubon Mid-Atlantic. "But many of these species also face the additional threat of colliding with buildings." □

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 9 | | | | |
| | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 4 | |
| | | 9 | | | | 3 | | |
| 4 | 6 | | | | | | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | | | | 2 | | | | 1 |
| 1 | 8 | | | | | | 7 | 4 |
| | | 1 | | | | 9 | | |
| | 9 | | 4 | | 5 | | 8 | |
| | | | | 8 | | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/13

©2021 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.



Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 2/1113 (16k);
Week 5/1315 (18k);
Week 5&6/1521 (20k/Wk.);
Week 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);
Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);
Week 9/1218 (15k);
Week 10/1207 (15k);
Week 11/1419 (13k); and,
Weeks 13-15 also available!
CDMOwner@gmail.com
U.S. (860)992-3890

213823



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Paradera Tel. 588 6638

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Police | 100 |
| Oranjestad | 527 3140 |
| Noord | 527 3200 |
| Sta. Cruz | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141 |
| Ambulancia | 911 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Red Cross | 582 2219 |

TAXI SERVICES

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Taxi Tas | 587 5900 |
| Prof. Taxi | 588 0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S. | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
| A1 Taxi Serv. | 280 2828 |

TRAVEL INFO

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Aruba Airport | 524 2424 |
| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
| Avianca | 588 0059 |
| Jet Blue | 588 2244 |
| Surinam | 582 7896 |

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Richard Brooks

Linda Reijnders

Sales

Linda Reijnders

(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes

Joris Zantvoort

Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday

Like
us on
Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/

As 'Grey's' returns, Wilson says it has connected viewers

By HILARY FOX
Associated Press
LONDON (AP) — Unlike lead character Meredith, "Grey's Anatomy" is not fighting for its life. It is the most-watched entertainment series for the season to date among young adults on Thursday night and resumes season 17 this week. It has not been announced whether there will be a season 18. The series — which follows the staff of a Seattle hospital — has provided life support for its audience, whether it's an emotional outlet or career guidance. During the pandemic, it also entertained people stuck inside, re-watching or discovering it for the first time. Viewers have gathered on social media to discuss love, life or death plotlines from recent and more older seasons.



Chandra Wilson portrays Dr. Miranda Bailey in a scene from the long-running series "Grey's Anatomy."

Chandra Wilson, an original cast member, noticed this trend and has been viewing old episodes herself with her daughter. "If it was up to her, we'd have been done with 16 seasons in 16 days," she laughs. "I'm new to this whole binging thing." Watching old episodes has

given her daughter the chance to pass verdict on the similarities between Wilson and her character, Dr. Miranda Bailey. "I always say that we just really are different people for so many reasons, the way we talk, how we think, what we say to people," explains Wilson. "But from

my daughter's perspective, she would say, 'no that's you, that's you Ma.'" Something that hasn't changed during her 16 years as Bailey and often as a director on the show is the influence of her character. Bailey is a successful Black female surgeon, who has

coped with mental health issues yet takes no nonsense from anyone. This fictional character has provided real life career options for viewers. Since the first season of the ABC series created by Shonda Rimes — Krista Vernoff is the current showrunner — "Grey's Anatomy" has

received mail from people inspired to pursue medical careers. "They tell us about where they are in residency or where they are in med school or are or, you know, just that this door has opened up for them, but particularly women of color that let me know before I saw a Miranda Bailey on television, that I hadn't even thought of that for myself." "If that's the service that we have provided with all these seasons, then we will take it, because it's just amazing," she adds. An added responsibility in 2020-2021 is the portrayal of the pandemic. "Grey's Anatomy," more than other U.S. medical drama, demonstrated the toll of COVID-19 on patients, health workers and the public in storylines across the first half of season 17. Bailey dealt with loss after she struggled to keep her parents safe. "At the time that the episode aired where Miranda lost her mom, we hadn't had like a national day of grieving yet. We hadn't really been able to mourn yet as a country, as a community," says Wilson. □

Associated Press

Obama in upcoming podcast credits his mother for his path



Bruce Springsteen, left, appears with former President Barack Obama during their podcast of conversations recorded at Springsteen's home studio in New Jersey.

Associated Press

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Barack Obama reveals in an upcoming podcast with rocker Bruce Springsteen that he chose

a career of public service in part due to his mother, an acknowledgement that lands in the middle of Women's History Month. "My mom was a little bit of a free thinker," Obama

says in Monday's episode of Spotify's "Renegades: Born in the USA." The Associated Press was granted early access to a snippet. Obama's mother, Ann Dunham, was an anthropologist who worked to help improve the lives of the poor in Indonesia. Obama called her "kind of romantic" and "not that practical" and said she put a "little bit of that into me." Obama tells The Boss that he was attracted to public service instead of a big salary because he recognized the American dream was not achievable for many Black citizens. "When I thought about what I should aspire to, it wasn't, 'Man, let me be Jay Rockefeller.' It was, 'Look at John Lewis.'" Lewis, a civil rights icon, served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 17 terms representing Georgia and became the "conscience of Congress" until his death last year. He and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. were trying "to make the world better," Obama says. "That path looked to me like it was something necessary for me to do. My salvation was there." The discussion was kicked off when Springsteen asks Obama, who graduated from Columbia University and Harvard Law School, why he chose organizing when there were more lucrative doors open to him. The episode is the fifth of the eight-episode series and titled "Every Man for Himself: Money and the

American Dream." The conversation was recorded in Springsteen's guitar-filled home studio in New Jersey. The relationship between the former president and rock star began when Springsteen performed benefits for Obama during his presidential campaigns. But it has blossomed into deeper conversations since he left office, Obama said in the first episode. □

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 9 |
| 6 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 6 |

Workload worries: MLB teams ponder how to protect pitchers

By **DAVID BRANDT**

AP Sports Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — If the Arizona Diamondbacks want to win a lot of games this season they probably need right-hander Zac Gallen to throw a lot of quality innings.

If the franchise wants to be good for the next several years, it's also imperative that the 25-year-old — who finished ninth in the NL Cy Young voting last season — stays healthy.

The challenge of balancing the present and the future is nothing new for Major League Baseball teams, who are particularly careful with star young pitchers. But the calculus might be even tougher in 2021 because pitchers are coming off a much smaller workload during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

Gallen, who finished with a 3-2 record and a 2.75 ERA last season in 72 innings, is adamant he's ready to ramp back up to nearly 200 innings if needed, even if it appears unlikely the D-backs would push him that hard.

"I'm going to pitch until they tell me to stop pitching," Gallen said. "And then I'll probably still say, 'No, let me go back out there.'"

There's little doubt teams will be very careful extending their pitchers to the usual 180 to 200 innings that a typical starter logs in a 162-game season. There's even



Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Zac Gallen throws against the Houston Astros during the first inning of a baseball game in Houston, in this Friday, Sept. 18, 2020, file photo.

Associated Press

talk about using six-man rotations for some teams, including the Seattle Mariners, who used the strategy for much of 2020 during the 60-game schedule.

"Our primary thought behind it is to preserve the health and well-being of our pitchers," Seattle GM Jerry Dipoto said. "In an era where teams are trying to find a competitive advantage by throwing their starters for shorter lengths of time and just running them harder, we feel like our advantage, our competitive advantage is by keeping our pitchers healthy and having our best pitchers pitch over the length of the

season, rather than the potential dangers of running them into the injury."

The Detroit Tigers have several young pitchers they're trying to bring along slowly and new manager A.J. Hinch said the six-man rotation is a possibility.

"We've got a lot of guys that we're wanting to stretch out and give a look, and obviously there's a competition going on for five or six spots, depending on what we go with," Hinch said.

But the strategy might not be a great decision for every team. The five-man rotation has been a durable staple for MLB teams over

the past 30 to 40 years, even as sabermetrics have changed many of the game's strategies.

The math is fairly simple. In a five-man rotation, pitchers make about 32 starts per season. Assuming an average of about six innings per start, that's 192 innings through a 162-game schedule.

In a six-man rotation, the number of starts goes down to 27. At six innings a start, that's 162 innings in a season, or 30 less than a pitcher in a five-man rotation. Certainly, that means pitchers get more rest. But it also means a staff ace isn't on the mound as much.

For teams like the Washington Nationals (Max Scherzer), New York Yankees (Gerrit Cole) or Los Angeles Dodgers (Clayton Kershaw and Trevor Bauer), that doesn't seem ideal.

Colorado manager Bud Black is one who plans to stick with a five-man rotation if possible.

"A lot of times it's what we can condition our players to do and right now our starting pitchers across baseball are conditioned to throw every fifth day," Black said. "We can go on and on about pitch counts and 200 innings and all the things that go in with that, but we as an industry have created some of these standards — good or bad." Teams won't necessarily have to go to a six-man rotation to preserve their arms. There are other strategies available, including fewer innings per start or skipping an occasional start when the schedule allows.

"I'm not in the logistics business so for me to try and gameplan would be above my pay grade," Gallen said. "But there's things I imagine you could do throughout the year. Maybe take a look at days off or whatever it is, push a start back."

The goal is to avoid a situation where Gallen is shut down during important games in September or the playoffs. □

Van der Poel wins 3rd stage of Tirreno; Van Aert keeps lead

GUALDO TADINO, Italy (AP)

— The classics riders are dominating the weeklong Tirreno-Adriatico race.

Mathieu van der Poel claimed the third stage on Friday with an authoritative sprint to follow up on wins from Wout van Aert and Julian Alaphilippe on the opening two days.

Van der Poel, the Dutch champion who won the Strade Bianche race on Saturday, edged Van Aert and Davide Ballerini at the end of the undulating 219-kilometer (136-mile)

route from Monticiano to Gualdo Tadino.

Van der Poel, who rides for the Alpecin-Fenix team, required nearly 5 1/2 hours to complete the race's longest stage. "It was a really hard sprint after a long stage," Van der Poel said. "It hurts." After first punching the air, Van der Poel then celebrated by crossing his arms as he sat upright on his bike. He said he copied the pose from a MotoGP rider. "We found it on Instagram and I promised my teammates that I would

try to replicate it," Van der Poel said. In the overall standings, Van Aert is four seconds ahead of Van der Poel, with Alaphilippe third, 10 seconds behind.

Tadej Pogačar, the Tour de France titleholder, is looming in fifth place overall, 20 seconds behind. He'll be expected to contend in Stage 4 on Saturday, a 148-kilometer (92-mile) leg from Terni to Prati Di Tivo that finishes with a major climb and is considered the race's toughest test.

"Normally, it would be very



Dutch Mathieu van der Poel wins the third stage of the Tirreno Adriatico cycling race, from Monticiano to Gualdo Tadino, Italy, Friday, March 12, 2021.

Associated Press

difficult for me to retain the leader's jersey tomorrow," Van Aert said. "This situation is completely new for

me, but I'm ready to fight. My team is very strong and we saved some energy today. □



Chris Kirk chips to the green on the ninth hole during the second round of the The Players Championship golf tournament Friday, March 12, 2021, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

Kirk takes early lead at Players as DeChambeau pulls closer

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Chris Kirk birdied all the par 5s, holed out for eagle from the fairway and set the target Friday at The Players Championship with a 7-under 65.

Bryson DeChambeau, coming off a win at Bay Hill, got his bad stuff out of the way early and was right behind.

Kirk finished with back-to-back birdies on another gorgeous day at the TPC Sawgrass and posted at 7-under 135, one shot ahead of DeChambeau, Brian Harman, Charley Hoffman and Denny McCarthy, who had a hole-in-one in his round of 69.

Sergio Garcia, who opened with a 7-under 65 for a three-shot lead, played in the afternoon.

Kirk was among those who had to return Friday morning to finish the opening round. He made three pars for a 72.

He was even par through five holes in the second round. And then everything changed, and he doesn't know why.

"I felt like I was still treading water. I wish I had a better answer, but the ball started going in," Kirk said. "I chipped one in on 15, had a nice long two-putt on 16, hit it to a foot on 17 and I

felt like I was off to races."

After his bogey on the 14th, he played the next six holes in 6 under, including his wedge from 147 yards on the first hole that dropped for eagle.

DeChambeau stayed on the range until darkness, as he often does, after opening with a 69.

He felt better going onto the Stadium Course, but only until he unleashed his first drive of the day on No. 10.

It sailed some 30 yards right into the trees on the pine straw. He had a clean lie and a clean shot, just not the right distance. It went long, and he muffed his first pitch from thick rough and wound up with a double bogey.

He settled down after that, including a wedge to 4 feet on the island-green 17th, making five birdies against no bogeys the rest of the way to head into the weekend with a shot at back-to-back wins.

"I'm happy with the fact that I've still been able to keep myself in it and score well," DeChambeau said. "I've been pretty lucky, for the most part. I don't think that'll happen this weekend.

I've got to make sure that my game is good off the tee, so I don't have those issues occurring and I don't

have to rely on luck for the most part. I have to get it in the fairway."

The luck he mentioned was getting reasonable lies when he missed the fairway — he has hit only 12 of the 28 fairways through two rounds.

And then he was off to the range.

"I'm a perfectionist, and I'll continue to be so until the day I die and until the day I stop playing this game," DeChambeau said. "That's just the way I am."

Sawgrass was a little tamer in the second round. One day after there were 22 scores of triple bogey or higher, there were only four.

There were 35 balls in the water on the 17th, and about one-third that many midway through the second round.

Jordan Spieth made a double bogey from the 14th fairway, noteworthy only because it was his first double bogey or worse since the 16th hole of the opening round at the Masters in November, a streak of 411 holes, the longest of his career.

Jon Rahm birdied two of his last three holes for a 68 and was three shots behind, while Dustin Johnson wasted a strong start and had to settle for 70 that left him six shots behind. □



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady leaves the field an NFL divisional round playoff football game against the New Orleans Saints in New Orleans, in this Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

Brady signs extension, frees salary cap space for Buccaneers

By FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady has agreed to a contract extension with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers that provides the Super Bowl champions with much-needed salary cap relief and will help the seven-time NFL champion reach a goal of playing until he's at least 45.

Brady posted a picture of himself on Twitter, signing the extension Friday with the message: "In pursuit of 8 ... LFG@ Buccaneers we're keeping the band together." The extension confirmed by the team frees about \$19 million in salary cap space, a move that improves Tampa Bay's chances of returning as much of its championship roster as possible for 2021. Seven starters from the Super Bowl were among two dozen Buccaneers eligible to become free agents next week.

"When we acquired Tom a year ago, we were extremely excited about the leadership, poise and winning track record that he would bring to our locker room. Since that time, he has proven himself to be the ultimate competitor and delivered in every way we had imagined, helping us capture the Lombardi Trophy," general manager Jason Licht said.

"Year after year," the GM added, "Tom proves that he remains one of the elite quarterbacks in this game and we couldn't be happier to keep him in Tampa Bay as we continue to pursue our goals together." Brady's extension adds an extra season on the two-year, \$50 million contract he signed in free agency last March following a 20-year run with the New England Patriots.

The five-time Super Bowl MVP capped his first season with the Bucs by leading Tampa Bay to its first championship in 18 years.

In preparation for the start of free agency next week, Licht placed the franchise tag on receiver Chris Godwin and signed linebacker Lavonte David to a two-year, \$25 million contract that was announced Friday.

David's contract, of which \$20 million is guaranteed, includes voidable years that make it salary cap friendly. Brady's extension also includes voidable years to provide cap relief this winter.

"Tom is one of those great guys who understands that it takes a whole village to win. It takes a team, a group of guys, to win football games," David said. □